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Seagulls In The Suburbs

Margaret T. Segal

There they were one day,
a whole gaggle of them swooping and whooping it up
in a strip mall parking lot.
It seemed so odd
to the native Northeasterner in me
to see sea birds in a place so far
from our ocean mother.
Lake gulls, no doubt.
Lake gulls sick of the noise
and the pollution
and the nasty people throwing things at them
from their Gold Coast enclaves.

Let's go to the suburbs, their leader must have said one day.
Let's get the hell out of here
and find some space
and peace
and quiet.
We don't need the hassles anymore,
and we're starting to feel old.
Let's just get the hell out
while we still can.

Sound familiar?